ASO
ARCHIE SONIC ONLINE!
RABBOT REBOUND
PART 2 OF 3
ISSUE 52
SONIC
UNIVERSE
ONLINE
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WELCOME TO THE SONIC UNIVERSE – A UNIVERSE UNIQUE AND BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW FROM THE SEGA GAMES, WHERE ONE LONE FREEDOM FIGHTER IS ON A QUEST FOR POWER, NO MATTER WHAT SHE MUST SACRIFICE ALONG THE WAY...

PREVIOUSLY IN...

SONIC UNIVERSE ONLINE

With the aid of the newly-legionized Bunnie D'Coolette, the Great Desert's Dark Egg Legion has turned the tide against the Sand Blasters. However, the cybernetic enhancements have done little to fill the hole in the former Freedom Fighter's heart. Dispatched by her uncle to oversee a fuel shipment to the Dragon Kingdom's local D.E.L. chapter, their trip is interrupted when Bunnie and her squad are ambushed and imprisoned by the Sand Blasters' sadistic leader, Jack Rabbit. **Now he speaks of holding Bunnie ransom before executing her; and in truth, perhaps death is the greatest comfort that can be offered to her now...**

Power Struggle Part 2: Charging in Progress

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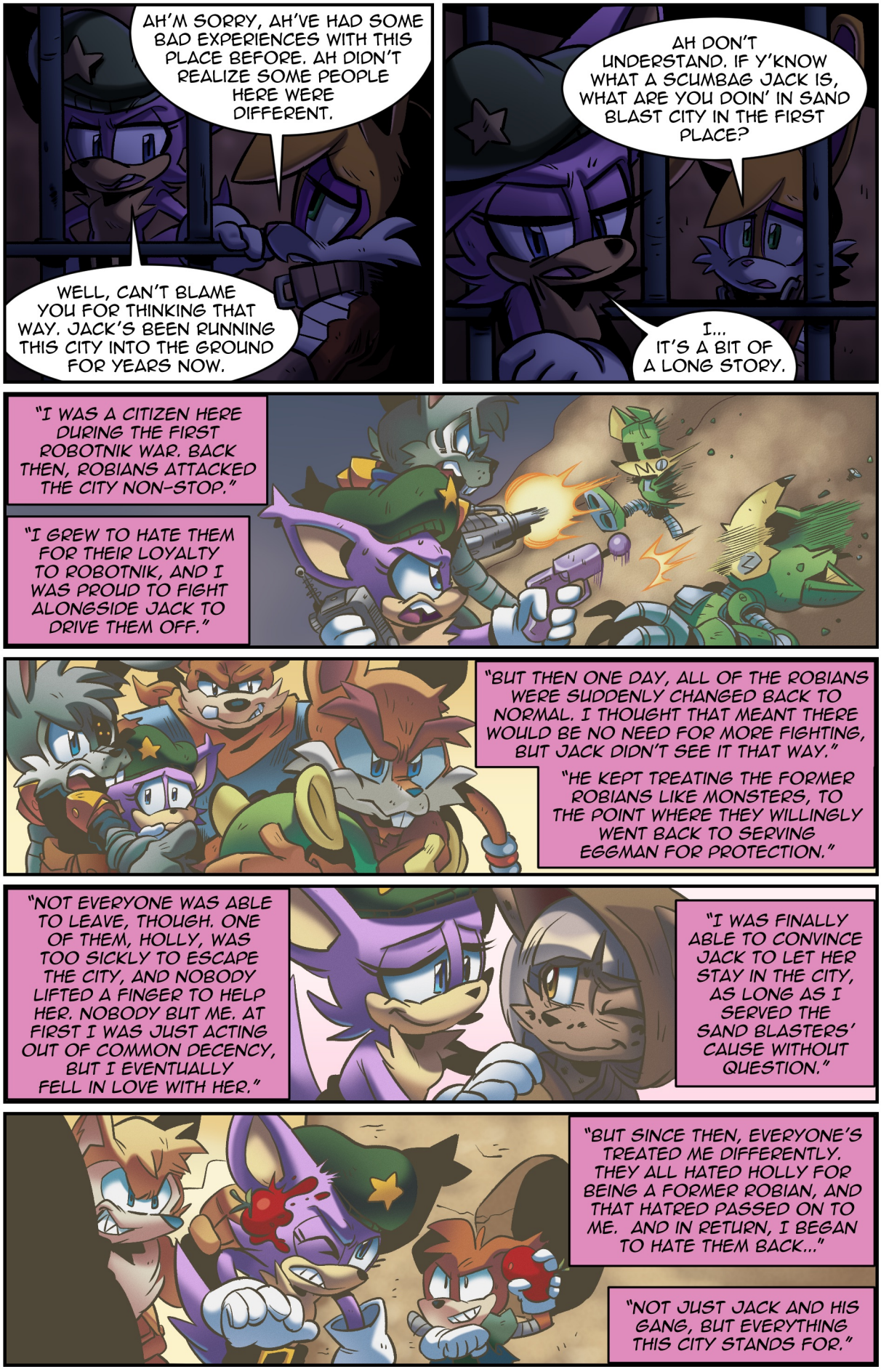
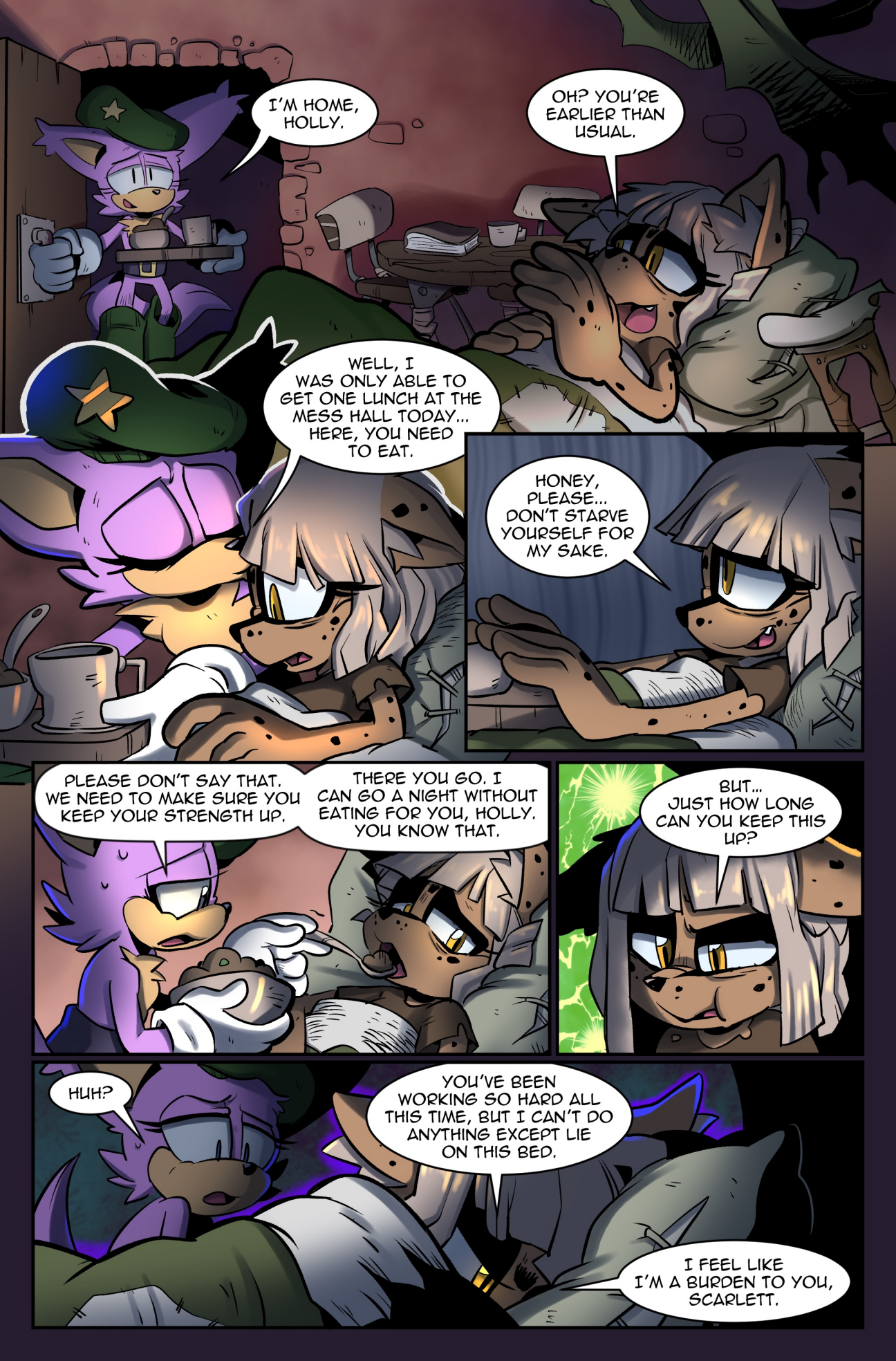
WAY TO GO, BUNNIE. YOU DONE RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND GOT YOURSELF LEGIONIZED, AND YOU'RE STILL JUST AS POWERLESS AS BEFORE.
NOW YER STUCK IN THIS MUCKED-UP CITY *AGAIN*, AND Y'ALL GOT NO FRIENDS COMIN' TO THE RESCUE.
POWER STRUGGLE
Part Two: CHARGING IN PROGRESS

...HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S IT TO YA? YOU'RE JUST ONE OF JACK'S THUGS. I SAW YOU FIGHTIN' MAH TEAM BACK IN THE DESERT.*
YER ALL THE SAME.
THINK WHAT YOU WILL, BUT NOT ALL OF US SAND BLASTERS BUY INTO JACK'S INSANITY.
SOME OF US ARE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
*SEE LAST ISSUE

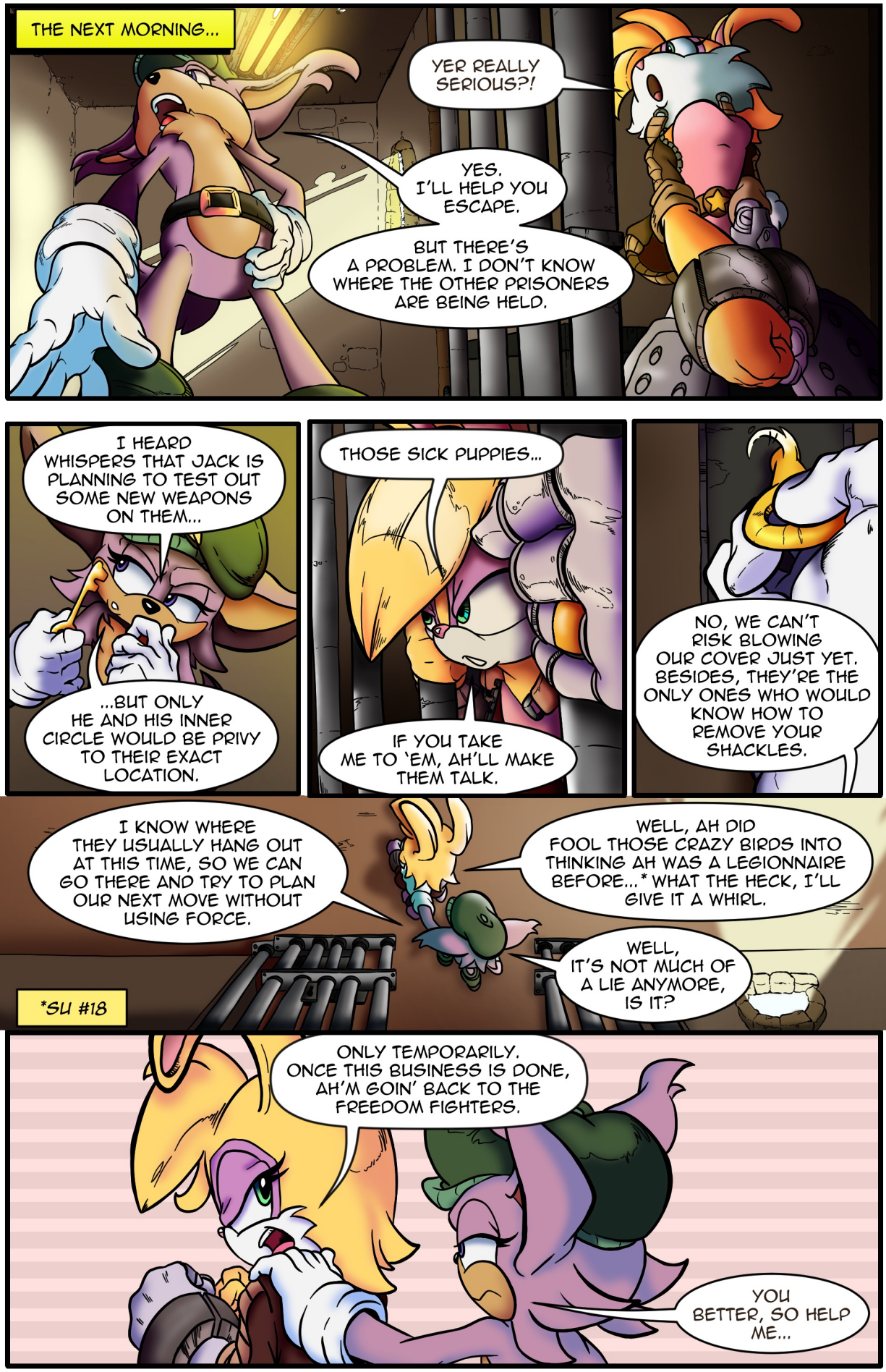

AH'M SORRY, AH'VE HAD SOME BAD EXPERIENCES WITH THIS PLACE BEFORE. AH DIDN'T REALIZE SOME PEOPLE HERE WERE DIFFERENT.
WELL, CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR THINKING THAT WAY. JACK'S BEEN RUNNING THIS CITY INTO THE GROUND FOR YEARS NOW.
AH DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF Y'KNOW WHAT A SCUMBAG JACK IS, WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' IN SAND BLAST CITY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I... IT'S A BIT OF A LONG STORY.
"I WAS A CITIZEN HERE DURING THE FIRST ROBOTNIK WAR. BACK THEN, ROBIANS ATTACKED THE CITY NON-STOP."
"I GREW TO HATE THEM FOR THEIR LOYALTY TO ROBOTNIK, AND I WAS PROUD TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE JACK TO DRIVE THEM OFF."
"BUT THEN ONE DAY, ALL OF THE ROBIANS WERE SUDDENLY CHANGED BACK TO NORMAL. I THOUGHT THAT MEANT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR MORE FIGHTING, BUT JACK DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY."
"HE KEPT TREATING THE FORMER ROBIANS LIKE MONSTERS, TO THE POINT WHERE THEY WILLINGLY WENT BACK TO SERVING EGGMAN FOR PROTECTION."
"NOT EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE, THOUGH. ONE OF THEM, HOLLY, WAS TOO SICKLY TO ESCAPE THE CITY, AND NOBODY LIFTED A FINGER TO HELP HER. NOBODY BUT ME. AT FIRST I WAS JUST ACTING OUT OF COMMON DECENCY, BUT I EVENTUALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH HER."
"I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CONVINCE JACK TO LET HER STAY IN THE CITY, AS LONG AS I SERVED THE SAND BLASTERS' CAUSE WITHOUT QUESTION."
"BUT SINCE THEN, EVERYONE'S TREATED ME DIFFERENTLY. THEY ALL HATED HOLLY FOR BEING A FORMER ROBIAN, AND THAT HATRED PASSED ON TO ME. AND IN RETURN, I BEGAN TO HATE THEM BACK..."
"NOT JUST JACK AND HIS GANG, BUT EVERYTHING THIS CITY STANDS FOR."

IF THAT'S HOW Y'ALL FEEL, THEN HELP ME ESCAPE! AH'M A FREEDOM FIGHTER, AND MAH FRIENDS CAN--
I CAN'T.
I'D GLADLY TAKE THE RISK IF I WAS BY MYSELF, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HOLLY BEHIND. AND IF JACK LEARNED THAT I BETRAYED HIM...
...I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO HER.
BESIDES, YOU CHOSE TO BE LEGIONIZED. YOU KNEW THE DANGER YOU WERE FACING BY COMING HERE.
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HELPING YOU.
SCARLETT!
YOUR SHIFT JUST ENDED. I'M HERE TO WATCH THE FREAK FOR THE NIGHT...
...SO BEAT IT.
...VERY WELL.
HEH HEH, LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE AT LEAST.
BUT THE BOSS DOESN'T WANT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS, SO I'LL BE KEEPING MY EYES ON YOU.
GIVE ME STRENGTH, ANTOINE...

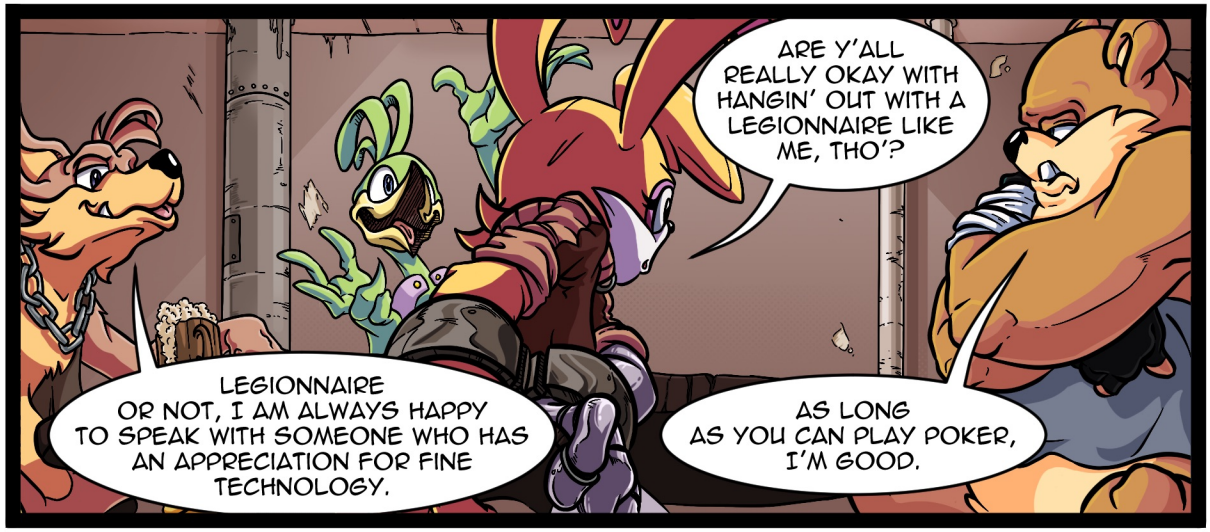

I'M HOME, HOLLY.
OH? YOU'RE EARLIER THAN USUAL.
WELL, I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET ONE LUNCH AT THE MESS HALL TODAY... HERE, YOU NEED TO EAT.
HONEY, PLEASE... DON'T STARVE YOURSELF FOR MY SAKE.
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP.
THERE YOU GO. I CAN GO A NIGHT WITHOUT EATING FOR YOU, HOLLY. YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT... JUST HOW LONG CAN YOU KEEP THIS UP?
HUH?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD ALL THIS TIME, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT LIE ON THIS BED.
I FEEL LIKE I'M A BURDEN TO YOU, SCARLETT.

D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE, HOLLY. AND I'M STAYING RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE UNTIL THAT HAPPENS. I'LL BEAR THROUGH ANYTHING IF IT MEANS SAVING YOU.
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO OVERWORK YOURSELF UNTIL WE'RE BOTH TOO WEAK TO LEAVE? WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?
YOU KNOW THERE'S NO HOPE FOR ME! YOU NEED TO ESCAPE THIS WRETCHED CITY!
NO! I WON'T ABANDON YOU LIKE THAT! EVEN IF JACK'S PRISONER COULD HELP ME ESCAPE--
...WHAT PRISONER?

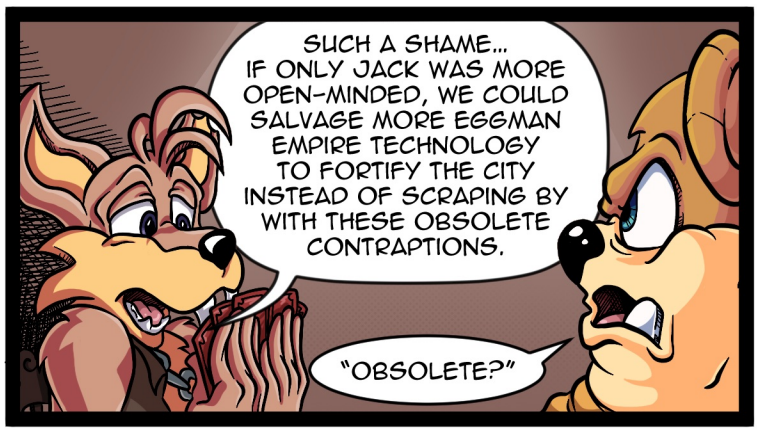
ONE EXPLANATION LATER...
...AND THEN ANOTHER OTHER GUARD CAME IN AND TOOK OVER.
POOR GIRL... JACK IS SURE TO SHOW NO MERCY TO HER. YOU NEED TO HELP HER, SCARLETT.
I CAN'T, I JUST CAN'T... EVEN IF I ESCAPED, I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR ABANDONING YOU.
FINE, THEN DON'T ESCAPE.
JUST HELP HER GET OUT, WITHOUT JACK CATCHING ON. SHE'LL COME BACK AND HELP US.
I CAN'T TAKE THAT RISK!
AND BESIDES, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
SHE'S A... A...
A CYBORG?
HOW... HOW CAN ANYONE WILLINGLY DO THAT TO THEMSELVES? RIP OFF THEIR OWN SKIN AND LIMBS AND REPLACE THEM WITH METAL AND WIRES? ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT ROBOTNIK DID TO US! HOW CAN I ENTRUST MY GIRLFRIEND'S LIFE TO SOMEONE CRAZY ENOUGH TO DO THAT?!
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW... I WOULD DIE BEFORE I LET ANYONE TURN ME INTO A ROBOT AGAIN. BUT MAYBE SHE FELT TRAPPED.
MAYBE SHE FELT THERE WAS NO OTHER OPTION. MAYBE SHE HAS SOMETHING TO PROTECT. MAYBE SHE'S JUST LIKE YOU...


THE NEXT MORNING...
YER REALLY SERIOUS?!
YES. I'LL HELP YOU ESCAPE.
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE OTHER PRISONERS ARE BEING HELD.
I HEARD WHISPERS THAT JACK IS PLANNING TO TEST OUT SOME NEW WEAPONS ON THEM...
...BUT ONLY HE AND HIS INNER CIRCLE WOULD BE PRIVY TO THEIR EXACT LOCATION.
THOSE SICK PUPPIES...
IF YOU TAKE ME TO 'EM, AH'LL MAKE THEM TALK.
NO, WE CAN'T RISK BLOWING OUR COVER JUST YET. BESIDES, THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO WOULD KNOW HOW TO REMOVE YOUR SHACKLES.
I KNOW WHERE THEY USUALLY HANG OUT AT THIS TIME, SO WE CAN GO THERE AND TRY TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE WITHOUT USING FORCE.
WELL, AH DID FOOL THOSE CRAZY BIRDS INTO THINKING AH WAS A LEGIONNAIRE BEFORE...* WHAT THE HECK, I'LL GIVE IT A WHIRL.
WELL, IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LIE ANYMORE, IS IT?
*SU #18
ONLY TEMPORARILY. ONCE THIS BUSINESS IS DONE, AH'M GOIN' BACK TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
YOU BETTER, SO HELP ME...

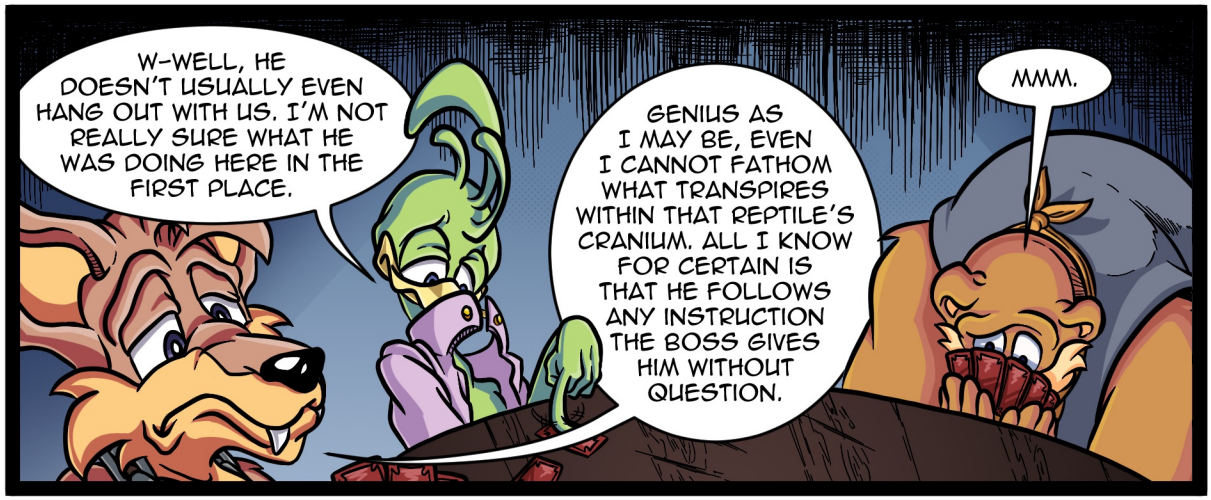
HELLO, BOYS.
SCARLETT? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WHY DID YOU BRING THE PRISONER?
THERE'S NO HARM, AVERY. WE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED THOSE RESTRAINTS TO KEEP LEGIONNAIRES FROM CAUSING A RABBLE.
YEAH, WHATEVER HE SAID! THE BOSS ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW, SO SHE CAN HAVE A LITTLE FRESH AIR! HA HA HA!
SIGH WOULD YOU GIRLS LIKE TO JOIN IN OUR GAME?
NO THA--
SURE!

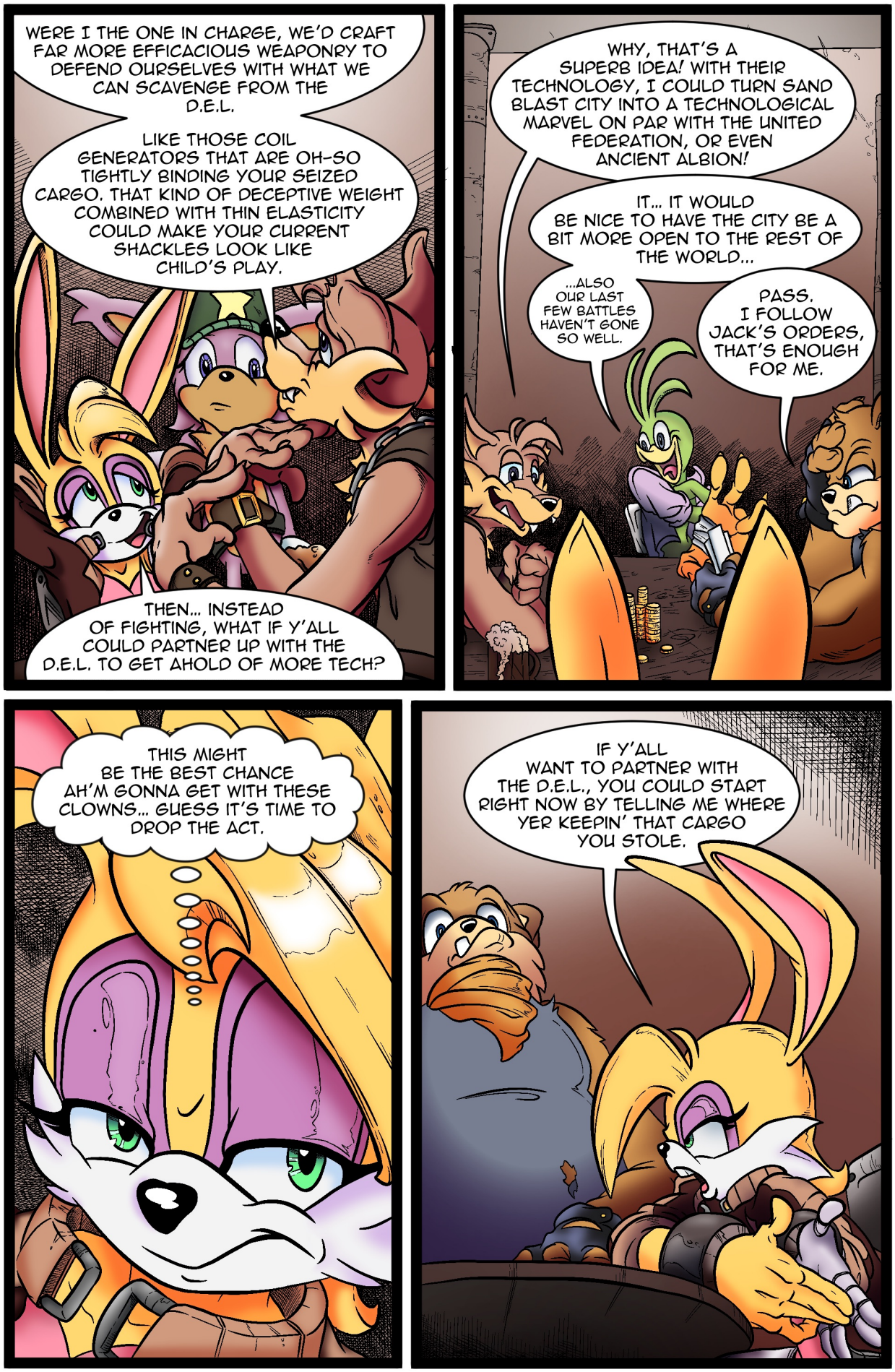

ARE Y'ALL REALLY OKAY WITH HANGIN' OUT WITH A LEGIONNAIRE LIKE ME, THO'?
LEGIONNAIRE OR NOT, I AM ALWAYS HAPPY TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS AN APPRECIATION FOR FINE TECHNOLOGY.
AS LONG AS YOU CAN PLAY POKER, I'M GOOD.

YEAH, THE BOSS IS THE ONE WHO REALLY HAS IT OUT FOR THE OLD ROBIANS.
THE REST OF US JUST FOLLOW HIS LEAD.

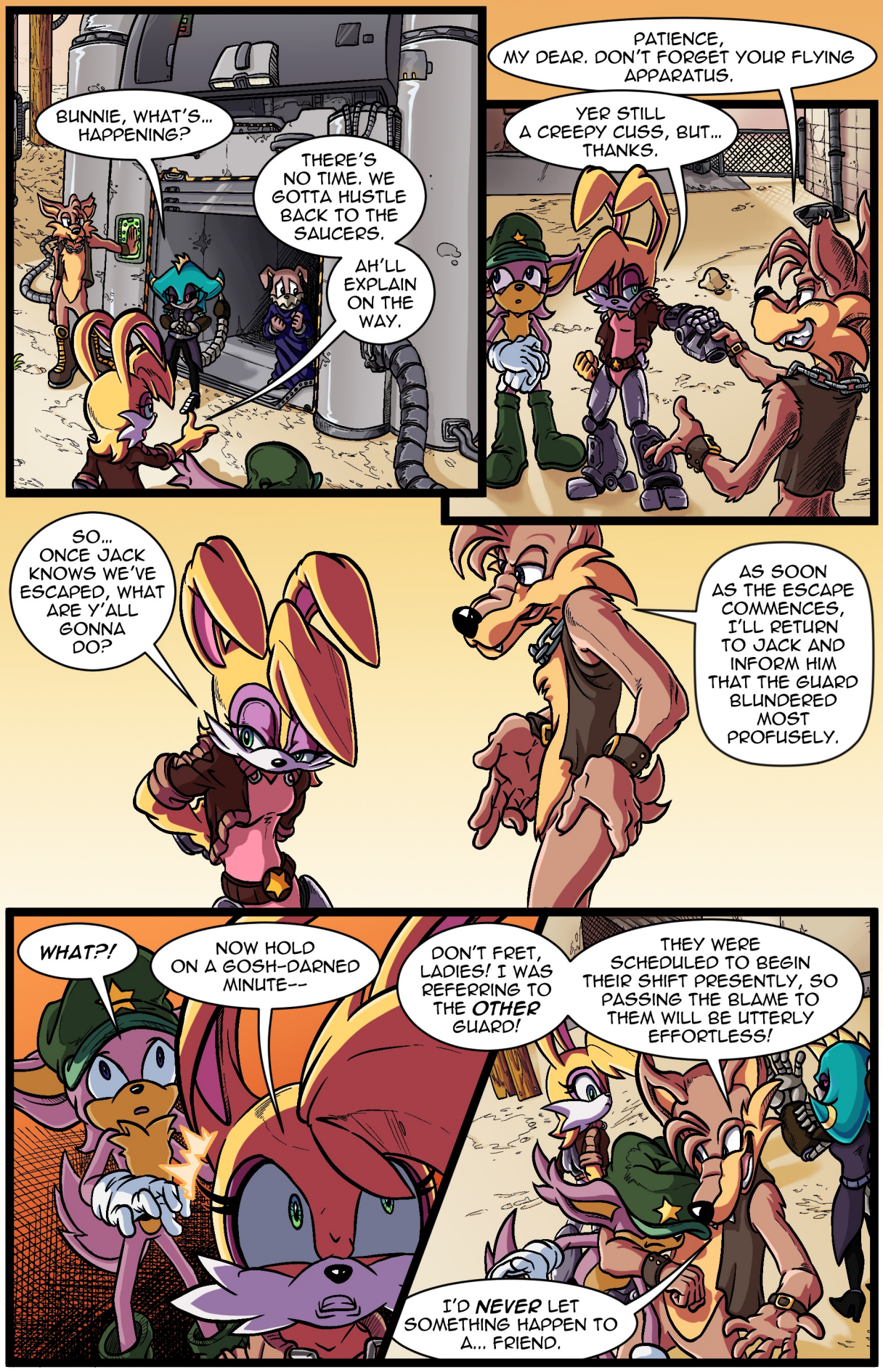

SUCH A SHAME... IF ONLY JACK WAS MORE OPEN-MINDED, WE COULD SALVAGE MORE EGGMAN EMPIRE TECHNOLOGY TO FORTIFY THE CITY INSTEAD OF SCRAPING BY WITH THESE OBSOLETE CONTRAPTIONS.
"OBSOLETE?"

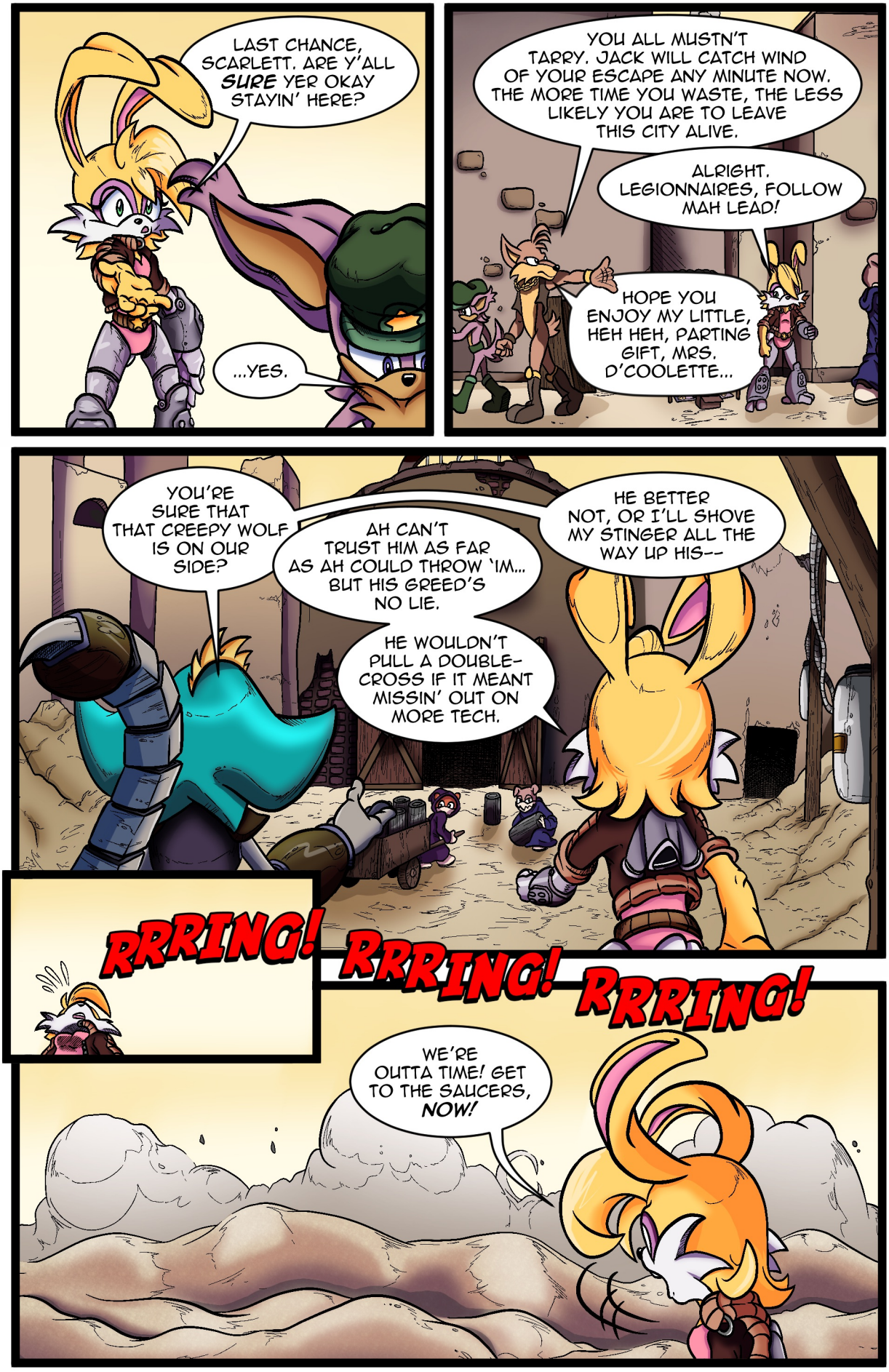
AHEM SO ANYWAY, WHAT WAS UP WITH TEX SUDDENLY WALKIN' OUT IN THE MIDDLE O' THE GAME LIKE THAT?


W-WELL, HE DOESN'T USUALLY EVEN HANG OUT WITH US. I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT HE WAS DOING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GENIUS AS I MAY BE, EVEN I CANNOT FATHOM WHAT TRANSPIRES WITHIN THAT REPTILE'S CRANIUM. ALL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS THAT HE FOLLOWS ANY INSTRUCTION THE BOSS GIVES HIM WITHOUT QUESTION.
MMM.


WERE I THE ONE IN CHARGE, WE'D CRAFT FAR MORE EFFICACIOUS WEAPONRY TO DEFEND OURSELVES WITH WHAT WE CAN SCAVENGE FROM THE D.E.L.
LIKE THOSE COIL GENERATORS THAT ARE OH-SO TIGHTLY BINDING YOUR SEIZED CARGO. THAT KIND OF DECEPTIVE WEIGHT COMBINED WITH THIN ELASTICITY COULD MAKE YOUR CURRENT SHACKLES LOOK LIKE CHILD'S PLAY.
THEN... INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, WHAT IF Y'ALL COULD PARTNER UP WITH THE D.E.L. TO GET AHOLD OF MORE TECH?
WHY, THAT'S A SUPERB IDEA! WITH THEIR TECHNOLOGY, I COULD TURN SAND BLAST CITY INTO A TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL ON PAR WITH THE UNITED FEDERATION, OR EVEN ANCIENT ALBION!
IT... IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE THE CITY BE A BIT MORE OPEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD...
...ALSO OUR LAST FEW BATTLES HAVEN'T GONE SO WELL.
PASS. I FOLLOW JACK'S ORDERS, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
THIS MIGHT BE THE BEST CHANCE AH'M GONNA GET WITH THESE CLOWNS... GUESS IT'S TIME TO DROP THE ACT.
IF Y'ALL WANT TO PARTNER WITH THE D.E.L., YOU COULD START RIGHT NOW BY TELLING ME WHERE YER KEEPIN' THAT CARGO YOU STOLE.

...IT WOULD BE MY PROFOUND PLEASURE.
I'M FOLDING, BOYS. I HAVE A FAR MORE LUCRATIVE MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH THE LADIES.
COME, I SHALL LEAD YOU TO YOUR MISSING CARGO.
I ASSUME YOU WISH TO ASCERTAIN THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES AS WELL?
YOU ASSUME RIGHT.
SPLENDID! I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO COLLABORATE JUST FINE.
HEY, HEY, HEY! SHIFT ISN'T REALLY PLANNING TO TURN ON THE BOSS, IS HE? YOU KNOW WHAT HE DOES TO TRAITORS!
IT'S SHIFT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, HE'S ALWAYS UP TO SOMETHING.
FOR NOW, WE'LL LET THIS PLAY OUT.


BUNNIE, WHAT'S... HAPPENING?
THERE'S NO TIME. WE GOTTA HUSTLE BACK TO THE SAUCERS.
AH'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY.
PATIENCE, MY DEAR. DON'T FORGET YOUR FLYING APPARATUS.
YER STILL A CREEPY CUSS, BUT... THANKS.
SO... ONCE JACK KNOWS WE'VE ESCAPED, WHAT ARE Y'ALL GONNA DO?
AS SOON AS THE ESCAPE COMMENCES, I'LL RETURN TO JACK AND INFORM HIM THAT THE GUARD BLUNDERED MOST PROFUSELY.
WHAT?!
NOW HOLD ON A GOSH-DARNED MINUTE--
DON'T FRET, LADIES! I WAS REFERRING TO THE OTHER GUARD!
THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THEIR SHIFT PRESENTLY, SO PASSING THE BLAME TO THEM WILL BE UTTERLY EFFORTLESS!
I'D NEVER LET SOMETHING HAPPEN TO A... FRIEND.


LAST CHANCE, SCARLETT. ARE Y'ALL SURE YER OKAY STAYIN' HERE?
...YES.
YOU ALL MUSTN'T TARRY. JACK WILL CATCH WIND OF YOUR ESCAPE ANY MINUTE NOW. THE MORE TIME YOU WASTE, THE LESS LIKELY YOU ARE TO LEAVE THIS CITY ALIVE.
ALRIGHT. LEGIONNAIRES, FOLLOW MAH LEAD!
HOPE YOU ENJOY MY LITTLE, HEH HEH, PARTING GIFT, MRS. D'COOLETTE...
YOU'RE SURE THAT THAT CREEPY WOLF IS ON OUR SIDE?
AH CAN'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS AH COULD THROW 'IM... BUT HIS GREED'S NO LIE.
HE WOULDN'T PULL A DOUBLE-CROSS IF IT MEANT MISSIN' OUT ON MORE TECH.
HE BETTER NOT, OR I'LL SHOVE MY STINGER ALL THE WAY UP HIS--
RRRING!
RRRING!
RRRING!
WE'RE OUTTA TIME! GET TO THE SAUCERS, NOW!

START 'EM UP!
AH'LL BACK US UP FROM THE REAR!
THEY'RE COMING IN FAST! HOW ARE WE GONNA GET OUT OF HERE?!
THE FRONT DOOR, O'COURSE.
FLOOR IT!
VROOOM!
VRAAT
VRAAT

WE MADE IT!
NOT JUST YET.
THEY'RE COMIN'.
WE GOTTA SHAKE 'EM!
TIME TO TURN UP THE HEAT!
I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS!
THE BARON'S LITTLE NIECE HAS PULLED MY LAST NERVE, BOYS!
SHOOT THOSE SAUCERS OUT OF THE AIR, AND GET THAT CARGO BACK!
NO MORE PRISONERS!
VRAAT
VRAAT
WHAT IN TARNATION ARE YOU DOING, SCARLETT?!
YOU'RE ONE OF OUR BEST SHOTS!
HIT THEM ALREADY!
I JUST... DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE THE CARGO!

WE AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT AT THIS RATE...
GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE.
VWOOSH!
YOU SAND BLASTER SCUM WANT ME THAT BADLY? WELL AH'M RIGHT--
FZZZT!
WHOA!
HA! THE TIN FREAKSHOW CAN'T EVEN FLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE!
SHOOT HER DOWN!
NOOAAUUUGH!
SHIFT, DON'T TELL ME YOU...!

DAGNABBIT, DON'T FRITZ OUT ON ME NOW! AH ONLY HAD YOU OFF FOR A DAY, THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO BE RECALIBRATIN'!
C'MON, WORK...
WORRRRRK!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SORRY, SCARLETT...
AUGH! NO!
AH'LL BE HAPPY TO GIVE Y'ALL ANOTHER THUMPIN' NEXT TIME!
THANKS FOR GIVIN' ME A REAL WORKOUT FER THESE NEW PARTS, JACK!

I WOULD'VE PREFERRED MORE TIME TO FINISH REPAIRING YOUR JET PACK, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED OUT WELL ENOUGH. FOR A CYBORG, YOUR SELF-MAINTENANCE IS REMARKABLY POOR.
I EXPECT THIS FAVOR TO BE REPAID WITH INTEREST... FELLOW FREEDOM FIGHTER.
WELL, WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE... BUT NOW AH'M OFF DELIVERIN' SUPPLIES FOR MAH WORST ENEMY.
AH THOUGHT THAT GETTING MAH CYBERNETICS BACK WOULD GIVE ME THE FREEDOM I FELT BEFORE... BUT NOW AH FEEL MORE SHACKLED THAN EVER.
THOSE GIRLS RISKED EVERYTHING TO HELP ME ESCAPE, AND AH LEFT THEM BEHIND... IN THE HANDS OF SHIFT, NO LESS.
DO I REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL MYSELF A FREEDOM FIGHTER ANYMORE?

ANTOINE, SALLY... AH WISH Y'ALL WERE HERE TO TELL ME IF I DID THE RIGHT THING.
IRON FORTRESS, DRAGON KINGDOM...
AT LAST...
WHAT A DISGRACE, TO HAVE LOST BOTH THE IRON DOMINION AND MY MACE.
REGARDLESS, I HAVE RETURNED...
...TO RECLAIM MY KINGDOM.
AN UNSTOPPABLE BIONIC FORCE IS ABOUT TO MEET AN IMMOVABLE IRON OBJECT. WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME WHEN THESE TITANS FACE OFF ONCE AGAIN? FIND OUT *NEXT TIME* IN *SONIC UNIVERSE ONLINE #53!*

Wait, the Iron King?! How can Bunnie handle a powerhouse like him??? Guess you gotta keep your eyes peeled for Sonic Universe Online #53! In the meantime, we've got an interview with the awesome writer for this issue, SonicWindAttack!

GentlemanX: What was your first exposure to Archie Sonic?

SonicWindAttack: I think I had randomly come across some older issues of the comic when I was a kid, like 106, 108 and 117. Better known as the issues featuring Dulcy's abusive boyfriend, the return of the original Dr. Robotnik, and the introduction to Tommy Turtle. Yeah... not exactly the best places to jump into it, but I was intrigued all the same.

GX: What was it about Archie Sonic that got you interested in being part of Archie Sonic Online?

SWA: Being a Sonic fan for as long as I knew how to speak, I could immediately tell how different the comics were from the games. Upon further research, I could never have imagined how expansive the Archie universe was, and how much I had missed out on. It didn't take long for me to get hooked, and when I happened to hear that there was a team dedicated to continuing the story that was unceremoniously stripped from us after 20 years, I leapt at the chance.

GX: What are your thoughts on writing new characters like Scarlett and Holly? How is it similar or different from writing for underdeveloped characters like the other members of the Sand Blasters?

SWA: Since Scarlett and Holly are entirely new characters, there was obviously some pressure to make a good first impression with them. In the

process, I may have subconsciously projected pieces of my own personality onto them in their dialogue and body language. And considering that I was also the one who came up with their names, maybe I do slightly think of them as "daughters" in a sense. Since I don't have the same connection to the Sand Blasters, I simply took what I knew of them from their previous appearances, and mixed that with my own writing style.

GX: Scarlett and Holly are the first ASO characters to be explicitly shown as LGBT+. How did you approach writing their interaction? Is there any special consideration you made toward representing them in the issue?

SWA: Being a non-LGBT+ person myself, part of me felt like it wasn't really my place to represent them in this story. At the very least, making sure that they had clear story significance rather than simply being lesbians for the sake of checking a box was a must. For that purpose, I consulted some actual LGBT+ staff members and made revisions based on their advice to make the final product as respectful and natural as possible. If there are ever any plans to go into the LGBT+ aspects of their characters in more depth, then I think I should leave that to the people with more knowledge and experience on the subject than myself. But otherwise, I certainly wouldn't turn down the chance to write for them again someday.

GX: This issue had an outline provided to you by the head writer. What challenges did this format present? What are the advantages and disadvantages did that format bring?

SWA: On the one hand, I'm absolutely horrible at coming up with my own story ideas, so having a solid starting point is helpful. On the other hand, having the story progression explained in TOO much detail can offer little room for personal creativity. But we're all learning as we go along, and I think we've just about reached the happy medium of letting the writers do things their own way while still respecting the head writer's original outline.

GX: Is there anything you would have done differently with the issue had you been able to craft the outline yourself?

SWA: Like I said, story outlines aren't my specialty, so I'd probably spend too long drawing a blank to think about what I could've done differently. The outline we ended up with was solid, and that's good enough for me.

GX: What would you like to see happen next for the characters of Sand Blast City? Where would you like to see the stories of Scarlett, Holly, Jack, the Sand Blasters taken when we next see them?

SWA: Not that I dislike the stories set in Sand Blast City, but it's getting pretty predictable at this point. Jack has evil plan, Freedom Fighters(?) stop him, Jack runs away fuming. For our next story, I'd like to see things get truly shaken up in Sand Blast City, with tangible consequences for everyone involved. And it seems like there are many things that happened in this issue which can help set the stage for exactly that!

GX: Is there anything in this issue you want readers to particularly notice or pay attention to?

SWA: Well, I guess there's the obvious elephant (or jackal) in the room on page 4. I can't exactly promise that it'll go anywhere, but depending on how response to this story ends up we might consider it!

GX: What are you working on now? Any personal projects?

SWA: Outside of ASO, I'm trying to become an artist in my own right, and also learn more about game design... key word being "trying". I've always been a terrible procrastinator, especially when I know that I need to be bad before I can get good. But if I can overcome that mental barrier, then I'll definitely have many more things to add to my plate!

THE SONIC SPIN

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EDITORIAL COMMENTARY PIT STOP

GX: Any final words you have for readers?

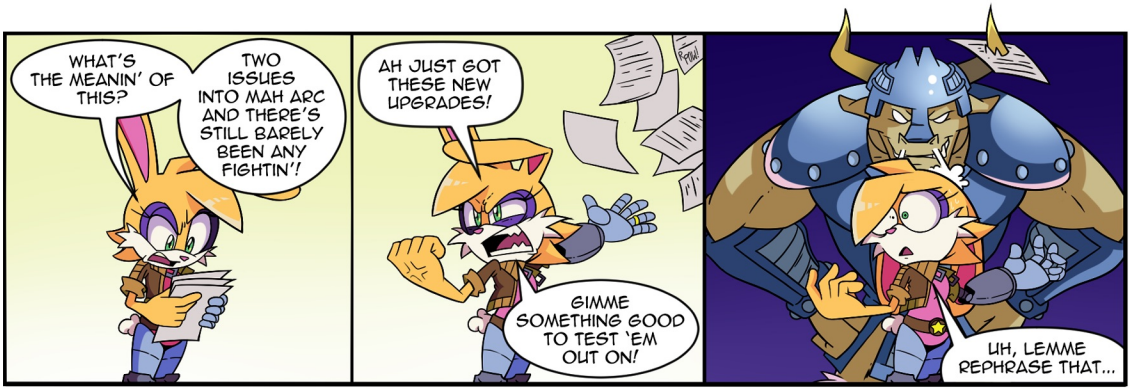
SWA: As one of ASO's longest-running members, I never imagined that we would end up getting this big, or that people would like my writing as much as they did. Having so many amazingly talented people work to bring my stories to life for no other reason than a shared love for Sonic is both a humbling and exhilarating experience. So I want to thank all of our wonderful readers for their support, and I'm looking forward to writing more of the world's most way past cool comic for the world's most way past cool people!

You can follow SonicWindAttack online through the links on the staff page of Arche Sonic Online's website.

OFF-PANEL

SCRIPT BY SONICWINDATTACK
PENCILS BY ROCKETPOW!
INKS AND COLORS BY KITARE
LETTERS BY DR. Z

"TOO MUCH IRON IN YOUR DIET"


WHAT'S THE MEANIN' OF THIS?
TWO ISSUES INTO MAH ARC AND THERE'S STILL BARELY BEEN ANY FIGHTIN'!
AH JUST GOT THESE NEW UPGRADES!
GIMME SOMETHING GOOD TO TEST 'EM OUT ON!
UH, LEMME REPHRASE THAT...

WANT TO SEE YOUR MESSAGE IN SONIC-GRAMS? SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS EITHER BY EMAIL AT SONICONLINEGRAMS@GMAIL.COM OR BY DIRECT MESSAGE AT BLOG.ARCHIESONICONLINE.COM!

SONIC-GRAMS

After all the excitement of that thrilling escape, let's wrap things up by tackling some Sonic-Grams from the lovely folks over on tumblr!

To the staff, do you guys plan to add any LGBT characters to this roster, or to make any of the existing characters LGBT?
- Anon.

We're so glad you asked, and we hope you enjoyed meeting Scarlett and Holly this issue! We love getting the chance to share characters that represent all of our readers, so keep with us for more characters we have in store for the future and don't feel shy about telling us what you want to continue to see from our comics. We're always listening on how we can improve!

I discovered and read ASO #51 the other day and I just wanted to say that I really like Lesath and Scarlett. Yes, they're only minor characters and we haven't seen much of them yet, but I already love them and am already shipping them. I just like the idea of sworn enemies falling in love when they're not supposed to. I'm thinking of making Scarlesath the ship name.
- Anon

As you've seen, Scarlett's already spoken for, but if you enjoy her and Lesath together as a couple, feel free to ship them to your heart's content! We encourage any fan pairings you're passionate about, even if not canon to ASO. We're glad you've been enjoying the new characters, so let us know if you want to see more of Lesath and Scarlett in the future by writing back in to Sonic-Grams!

Whatever happened to Scourge the Hedgehog? After he broke out of the No-Zone, I figured he'd have either Sonic or Zonic tailing him HARD.
- Anon

What DID happen to Scourge? Last we saw him, he was crashing on Moebius, where he ordered a course correction for the Destructix to make sure he's still top hedgehog. But will Finitevus just sit by while that happens? Keep reading Sonic Universe Online to find out! #knowingsmile

When issue 253 will come?
- Anon

Ask not of the wind why it swirls, for it speaks only in the language of feel. The air as it pushes past the skin on your face and your arms, the pull of the gale toward beckoning adventure. Like a siren's call, it offers a sweet melody from distant and uncertain ground - tempting you to leave before taking careful account of your footing. One places themselves in peril without proper care given to their own wellbeing. As caution ought to do, we offer words of patience and self evaluation with which you can resolve your spirit toward the trial that lies ahead. Harden your expectation, and live as though you had nothing blocking your destiny. Be as the wind, and pass on from this moment toward a new horizon which awaits only you to tread upon it. This is your calling, and we do not hesitate in sending you on your way with our blessing. May your tomorrows be filled with splendor and good fortune.

That's it for this issue of Sonic Universe! We'd like to thank everyone involved in the creation of this issue which has been years in the making! We hope the fans of Sonic Underground enjoyed it! See you next time and keep on juicin'!

NEXT ISSUE:

SONIC UNIVERSE ONLINE #53